

More than we can imagine

Now to God be the glory, who by
the power at work within us is able
to accomplish abundantly far more
than all we can ask or imagine.
Ephesians 3:20



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING

www.onegreathourofsharing.org

Thank you for preparing to promote the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Dear Friends,

The suggested 2019 One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering Sunday is March 31. We are pleased to share the enclosed resources with you. They were created to help congregations participate in the OGHS offering and have good results. We hope the role we play in the wider world through the offering, as the United Church of Christ, will inspire your generosity.

Thank you for your past support. Because of your generosity, in 2018 we were able to respond to a number of disasters worldwide. We provided disaster relief in places you most likely heard of in the news. We responded to: Hurricanes in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, North Carolina, Texas and Florida; Fires in California; Earthquakes in Mexico, Indonesia, and Haiti; Flooding in El Salvador, Hawaii, and South India; and Volcanos in Guatemala, just to name a few. We helped people who were displaced from their homes due to conflict and violence, while providing sustainable solutions in places lacking adequate education, agriculture or health, internationally. The impact that the OGHS offering makes in the world has done more than we could imagine.

But now more than ever, it would be easy to focus our attention on the places and people near and dear to us. If you are like me, you don't have to look far to see a need that requires your help. Natural disasters have impacted many communities, the cost of almost everything continues to rise, and money just doesn't seem to go as far as it once did. We may want to help, but think there is only so much we can do.

Yet, there is more that needs our attention. Jesus calls us to love our neighbor, to feed, clothe and visit those whom the Bible calls the least of these. And it isn't supposed to matter where people live. They are still our neighbors. They are still within our reach through our desire to help, through the arms of this church, and through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

To make the One Great Hour of Sharing offering part of your congregation's outreach this year, here are four simple steps that may be helpful to follow:

- 1 Set a date for the offering and announce it to the church along with a goal.
- 2 Make a big deal about the Poster—hanging it in a prominent place.
- 3 During worship, share the stories and videos so your members can learn more about what the offering does, and get excited.
- 4 Please thank everyone for participating in the offering, and announce how much was received. If you set a goal, let people know if you made it, or have just a little more to go.

Additional resources are available on the website. They can be found at www.ucc.org/oghs_resources.

Thank you on behalf of the individuals and communities who will benefit directly from your support.

Please give generously.

Engage in mission through One Great Hour of Sharing.

You can become a disaster volunteer, make a financial contribution, connect through Social Media, or become an OGHS Ambassador and use your voice to promote the offering. However you'd like to get involved visit ucc.org/oghs_getinvolved_index, for more information.

Watch the Latest One Great Hour of Sharing Videos

These 1–5 minute features highlight One Great Hour of Sharing and the mission that's made possible through the United Church of Christ. Videos can be fun and educational. They are easy to share with friends and groups, during worship, or on your Social Media page.

Make a Legacy Gift to the OGHS Endowment Fund

As your congregation participates in the OGHS offering, let them also know OGHS has an Endowment Fund. Download a copy of the brochure today to share. A legacy gift will ensure that the offering will be around to help people in need for years to come. Visit our website at ucc.org/oghs_endowment for more information.

Apply for a Matching Gift Through your Employer (if eligible)

Did you know that many employers contribute to employee and board members' favorite charities? Matching gift programs are a great way to double or triple the impact of personal donations. To find out if a company has a matching gift program, visit our website for a quick check at ucc.org/matching-gifts.

Connect with OGHS through Social Media

Find information to read or share through regular posts on these OGHS Social Media sites: Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

facebook.com/onegreathourofsharingucc

twitter.com/OGHS_at_UCC

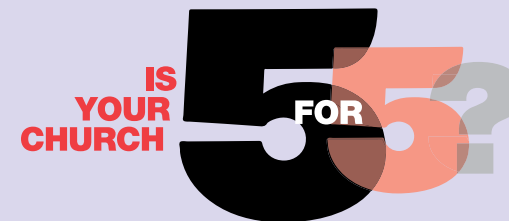
instagram.com/oghsucc

Become an OGHS Ambassador

OGHS is seeking volunteers to lend their voice to promote the offering more broadly. Training is available. Come, learn what's at the heart of OGHS and the ministry it makes possible. Then share the story with others in your congregation and neighboring churches. Sign-up today by sending an email to oghs@ucc.org.

Travel with OGHS

Each year OGHS hosts an educational mission trip to help interested members of our local churches see first-hand how OGHS makes a difference in our world. Visit our website at www.ucc.org/oghs_travel, and join us on our next trip.



In addition to Our Church's Wider Mission (Basic Support), the United Church of Christ has 4 Special Mission Offerings (SMOs). These offerings exist to allow congregations and individuals to meet people at points of critical need in their lives. Though many options exist for direct, individual support of these needs, the SMOs allow a common witness and make a collective positive impact. Our church has identified four areas where these critical human needs exist:

- **One Great Hour of Sharing**—in places lacking health and educational resources and/or where disaster has struck;
- **Neighbors in Need**—within systems of injustice which oppress daily life and opportunity;
- **Strengthen the Church**—in the nurture of youth and congregations just beginning their lives of faith;
- **The Christmas Fund**—in the lives of church leaders without sufficient resources to live with dignity;

We believe these SMOs collectively serve to lift people closer to the abundance and wholeness to which Jesus Christ has called us to work together to bring about. Join the other 1,000 churches that have made the decision to become 5 for 5 congregations, supporting OCWM and all four of the Special Mission Offerings.

IMAGINATION **More Than We Can Imagine!**

Interpreting the Special Offering Theme

It may seem a weak word when compared with all the need that we see daily in the world. We hear the word “**imagination**” and we may think to ourselves “fantasy.” We hear the word “**imagination**” and we wonder if it is truly helpful in a world where some would say, “clear-eyed realism is what is needed to face the challenges before us.”

Yet far from being a light, weak, or un-real thing, imagination is actually one of the most powerful engines for change that human beings have! Long ago, the philosopher Aristotle said that “Thinking itself begins in wonder, begins in imagination,” and he was right. Imagination, particularly when it is fueled by a vision of God’s hopes for all humankind, can keep us energized to do the good that is possible.

The theme for the 2019 One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering is “**More than we can imagine!**” The theme, based on Ephesians 3:20, reminds us that we are not alone in our imagining a better world for all of God’s children. For it is God’s imagination that fuels and empowers ours! You see, God imagines a world where:

- ▶ No one is left to face the ravages of natural disaster alone—neighbor helps neighbor, stranger helps stranger—for we are the church together
- ▶ Even if things will never quite be the same after a disaster, God can work through all events to bring new life, new hope, and even more resilience
- ▶ Clean and abundant water and ample sanitation facilities are available to every person
- ▶ Work brings security from hunger and the land is treated with respect
- ▶ Families displaced from their homes are able to build new lives
- ▶ Women are no longer subject to discrimination and gender-based violence

And God also imagines Christians of many traditions, coming together to help make these things ever more a reality for more and more people! For you see, our imagination of what might be is founded and grounded in what God envisions and hopes for. We can help—through our gifts of treasure and talent, prayer, and presence to make this world ever more like the way God imagines it would be!

Please, give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering, so that your imagination might indeed be ever more joined with God’s!



Worship Materials

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Inspired by Psalm 46)

LEADER: God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble.

PEOPLE: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

LEADER: This morning we enlarge our hearts; we offer our prayers; we share our treasure with those siblings in our world who are dealing with tumult and disaster and injustice.

PEOPLE: We will not be discouraged. We shall remember that God's steadfast love is always with us and the whole world, that God's compassion is for each and all.

LEADER: We will celebrate that love and compassion can do far more than "we can ask or imagine!"

PEOPLE: May we always be inspired by our hope in God, to serve, care, and live in hope!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(Inspired by Mark 9:24)

LEADER: Let us confess our sins before our God, who is slow to anger and keen to show mercy.

PEOPLE: We believe; O Lord, help our unbelief.

LEADER: We confess, O God, that instead of believing in your goodness and mercy and love for all people, we have fallen prey to cynicism; we have

looked for the worst in others instead of presuming the best; we have spoken words which demeaned instead of dignified.

PEOPLE: We believe; O Lord, help our unbelief.

LEADER: We confess that we have presumed to draw the circle of your grace much more narrowly than you do, treating some as "the other," not deeming them our brothers and sisters in Christ.

PEOPLE: We believe; O Lord, help our unbelief.

LEADER: We confess that our attention has been too short-lived when tragedy has come to those you love in any part of the world, forgetting that you call us to be there in word and deed over the months and years.

PEOPLE: We believe; O Lord, help our unbelief.

LEADER: We confess that we have sometimes allowed compassion fatigue to take root in our souls, closing our hearts to those who need our help.

PEOPLE: We believe; O Lord, help our unbelief.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Our God, whose imagination for the good of all people is always wider than our prejudices will empower and transform us. God will help us change our unbelief into faith, and our self-serving cynicism into love for "the least of these" who are also God's beloved.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God! Amen.



RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND HOPE

LEADER: God of grace and wonder,

PEOPLE: Be with us in this place.

LEADER: We love you, Holy God. We love you for the feast that is life: for friendships and laughter, intimacy and trust, moments of discovering deep truth, hidden potentials we never knew we had; for beauty—serene beauty and rugged beauty, the world you have crafted; and for the words, sounds, and colors with which people reflect and explore life. God of grace and wonder,

PEOPLE: Be with us in this place.

LEADER: We love you, holy God. We love you for the challenges of community: for moments of joy and celebration, for times of anxiety and questioning, for opportunities to listen deeply, for moments to start anew, for possibilities of reconciliation, for partnerships to work for peace and hope, for commitments to join hands for justice. God of grace and wonder,

PEOPLE: Be with us in this place.

LEADER: Gathering God, we give thanks for the vision, adventure, and passion that have brought us together in this holy place. Help us to be open today: grateful to meet Jesus in each other and in our neighbors near and far; happy to do a new thing; thankful to be your church together, to do that which by your design cannot be done apart. Challenge us, inspire us, strengthen and renew us. God of grace and wonder,

PEOPLE: Be with us in this place; may our worship today strengthen us to do more than we can imagine, that your world might be healed, that your justice might come, that your hope might be spread. May it be so! Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

In a world so filled with brokenness and sorrow, it would be easy to lose ourselves in never ending grief, to be choked by our outrage, to be paralyzed by the enormity of suffering, to feel our hearts squeeze tight with hopelessness. Instead, this morning, let us simply breathe together as we hold our hearts open. (*Breathing in*) let our hearts fill with compassion. (*Breathing out*) let us pray for healing in our world and in our lives. (*Breathing in*) open ourselves to the transforming power of love. (*Breathing out*) as we pray for peace in our world and in our lives. (*Breathing in*) the knowledge that through Christ, we may know our strength and be filled with courage. (*Breathing out*) a desire to pour our love into the world through our gifts that provide hope and healing, showing God's care near and far. Amen.

OFFERING DEDICATION PRAYER

We offer these gifts, O God of all people, in the hope and trust that you will use them to bring healing and hope where there is need. Where natural disaster has befallen, may these gifts help build new life. Where refugees seek safety from violence and fear, may these gifts enable caring and welcoming hearts and hands. Where hatred sullies your hope for your human family, may our gifts be a sign and instrument of reconciliation. Thank you, God, for the privilege of this offering. May it indeed do more than we can imagine! Amen.



HOLY COMMUNION

LEADER: This is the feast of our Lord Jesus Christ!

PEOPLE: As it says in the scripture, “people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.”

LEADER: We come, not because we must but because we may.

PEOPLE: We come to be nourished by grace that we might go forth to share the grace, the love, and the justice of God with the whole world.

LEADER: We come with thanksgiving, grateful for who we are and whose we are.

PEOPLE: For we are God’s own people, called, fed, commissioned, and sent!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We recall that on the night that would be our Lord and Savior’s last earthly night, he gathered his disciples around him to break bread together. They surrounded him at that table—both the disciple whom he loved and the disciple who would betray him, along with the other disciples who had been with him through his ministry, witness to his teachings, bearers of his grace, ones who saw how he broke down the barriers that separated us from them, friend from enemy, neighbor from stranger.

And as they were eating, he took the bread and blessed it and broke it and gave it to them, saying “This is my body broken for you, do this in remembrance of me.” Do this and be reminded that life is in too many places broken and hurting, and you are my witnesses and ambassadors to bring the news of help and wholeness from a loving God. In the same manner, following their meal, he took the cup and blessed it and poured it out for each one of them and said “This is the cup of the new covenant, sealed in my blood, given for you and for all for the forgiveness of your sins,” for the transformation of your lives and the lives of all who hunger and thirst. “As often, then, as you eat this bread and drink this cup, do so in memory of me.”

Do so in hope. Do so knowing that God will feed you and this whole world in ways that you cannot begin to imagine. For that good news, thanks be to God! The gifts of God for the people of God!

PRAYER FOR BREAD AND CUP

Gracious God of every time and place, every people and nation, we come to this table to receive these symbols of your grace, your hope, your sustenance. We come grateful that you feed us and call on us to help feed one another.

Thank you O God. We pray that you would bless these elements to our good that we might join you in doing good for this world. May we go from this table refreshed and renewed, having drunk deeply from the cup of courage that we might confront hunger and injustice. In the holy name of Christ we pray. Amen.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

We eat and we drink in hope that one day, none will know hurt or hunger or hopelessness. We thank you, God, for the opportunity to be fed and for the commission to go forth into the world, seeking to be bearers of your Good News for all people. Amen.





CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

Gather the children in the space and welcome them.

LEADER: Let's start with a game. Around the room are hidden some paper clouds. These are very special, and we need to find them and bring them all here! Can you help me?

Encourage the children to search for clouds, and give them to the leader. (Have a cloud for each child.)

LEADER: What do you notice about these clouds? Accept answers until the children notice that some have letters on them.

LEADER: Yes! Some of these DO have letters on them. I wonder what the letters might spell! You can have a child hold each letter in a line, having the rest of the class shuffle the order of the line until they are correct, OR you can put the clouds out on the floor or a table.

LEADER: The clouds spell "Imagine." What does the word "Imagine" mean?

Accept responses.

LEADER: Well it appears that we have a pretty good idea of what the word imagine means. So let's agree, imagine means to think of a picture or story in your mind. Perhaps when you close your eyes you can see it. It is like dreaming, but you can see it when you are awake. Let's give it a try. Let's all close our eyes and think of something. When I count to three, we'll open our eyes and share one at a time.

Invite responses from a few children.

LEADER: Those are some amazing things you visualized and imagined! I noticed that some of you imagined something positive and happy. Some of you imagined something [make other observations about their answers]. Some of you imagined something most people would say is impossible. Raise your hand if you think what you imagined can really happen. Those of you who didn't raise your hands, why do you think what you imagined could not really happen?

Listen to responses.

LEADER: I have a story to share from the Bible about a guy named Paul who prays and tells us that God can do more than anything we can ever imagine. A long time ago, when the church was first beginning, people like Paul, who were called Apostles, shared the good news about Jesus and how we should put our faith in God. Paul liked to write letters to encourage people to be kind, and to put their trust in God. In one letter Paul wrote to the church in a city called Ephesus, he added a special prayer to encourage people to trust in God. The prayer ends: "With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or think of. To [God] be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus for all time, forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20–21, International Children's Bible).

That sounds amazing to learn that if we trust in God's power, God can do more than we can do on our own. God can do more than we can imagine, kind of like what we imagined earlier. Let's imagine the amazing things God can do when God's power is working in us to help others.

First, I am going to pass out a cloud to each of you. Then, I want you to draw a picture of something that you think people need help with, but not like putting your toys away. Let's think about how people feel when it is too much rain, or maybe when they are hungry and don't have any food.

Give each child a cloud and give time for them to draw.

LEADER: When you're done flip your cloud over. Now let's close our eyes and imagine how God's power could help the people in that situation. Imagine how God could use YOU to do something to help them. I wonder how God's power in you could do more for people than they could ever imagine or ask?

LEADER: After you've thought about it, draw a picture on the other side. Begin with the sun shining. Next can you show what you could do when God's power is working in you?

Allow children time to draw.

Once many are completed, invite them to share with the class the side of the cloud where people need help and then turn to the side where the children have thought of ways that God can use them to be a help. You might display the clouds in a prominent area in your church for adults to see how children can show the possibilities of God's power working through them.

Close with a Prayer. Dear God, Thank you for allowing your power to work through us. Help us to look to you when we need help or when we see other people who need help. Help us to remember that with you we can do more than we could do on our own. Amen.

Beauty in the Broken Places

THEME: Even in places that are broken and hurting, Jesus can do more than we can imagine.

PURPOSE: To help children think about how God uses the One Great Hour of Sharing offering to create new and beautiful things out of situations of destruction and pain, like the broken pieces in a kaleidoscope turn and reflect into beautiful images.

SUPPLIES: a kaleidoscope; you can have one as an example, or you can have smaller party-favor kaleidoscopes, so each child can have one.

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 3:20 (International Children's Bible Version)

SCRIPT Gather the children and show them the kaleidoscope. Who can name what this is I have in my hand? Accept a few answers, until someone identifies it correctly or the answers slow down.

Yes! This is called a kaleidoscope. Who knows what we do with it? Accept answers, affirming correct answers.

LEADER: Have any of you ever played with one of these. What did you think of it? I'll pass it around in a few moments so you can each take a closer look. First, let me show you the funny thing about how it works. If you look at it from the outside lens, it looks like you just have a bunch of pieces everywhere. Sometimes those pieces look broken!



But here's the trick! If you look at it through the proper eye lens and twist it, all of the shattered pieces turn into beautiful shapes and a new picture. Pass around the kaleidoscope, or pass out the individual ones to each child.

Before you looked into the kaleidoscope, could any of you imagine what the picture could look like? Could you

imagine how beautiful it would be? Accept a few answers, as children keep passing the kaleidoscope.

As you twisted it, did you notice how the picture changed to a new shape? Did you have any idea beforehand what that shape would look like? Accept a few answers, as the children keep passing the kaleidoscope.

This kaleidoscope reminds me of our scripture verse today. The verse comes from our friend the Apostle Paul. A long, long time ago, Paul wrote letters encouraging people to follow and trust Jesus. Let's listen to something that Paul wrote in his letter to members of the church in a place called Ephesus. Paul wrote, "With God's power working in us, God can do much more than anything we can ask or think of."

You can repeat the scripture a couple of times, if you want.

Today I want us to think of ourselves as God's kaleidoscopes—And here's how...

When we look at all the scattered beads, it looks like the kaleidoscope is a mess. But when we turned the kaleidoscope, we saw beautiful pictures. This is what God's power does with us! Sometimes the world can seem like a mess! There are people who feel broken because of disasters, or wars, or because they don't have enough to eat. It can look like nothing good can happen. But God can make beautiful things, even when the world seems scary or broken. And our scripture verse today says God does that by working through us! When we used the power of our hands to turn the kaleidoscope, we saw a new picture. God's power can help us be a part of a new picture for people who are in need of help, too!

Today is a special time in our church where we give money to help families and communities around the world whose lives have broken pieces. Our One Great Hour of Sharing offering helps people rebuild their houses and churches after floods and fires and earthquakes. It helps people create new homes when they have had to leave their homes because they weren't safe. And it helps communities have clean water, healthy food, and schools for their children.

This offering helps us to do more than we can imagine to create a new picture for our neighbors around the world—all through the power of God! Can you

imagine how God might use YOU in a new picture for those who are in need?

Let's close with a prayer—Amazing God! Help us to be part of the beautiful world you imagine. When people are hurting, scared, or lost, use your power in us to help them. Amen.

—CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY—

Beauty in the Broken Places Kaleidoscope Creation

PURPOSE: This activity is an extension of the Children's Sermon

SUPPLIES:

Toilet paper or paper towel tube (1 full tube and 1 partial tube per kaleidoscope)
Mylar paper or other reflective cardstock
Tape
Beads, sequins, or confetti
Clear plastic (a to-go container works well)

INSTRUCTIONS: For an instructional video on how to make a toilet paper tube kaleidoscope, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yShrIOj34r0>

1. Cut the reflective paper; width: 4.25", length: ½" shorter than your tube. Fold the reflective paper to create a triangular prism, with the reflective part inside.
2. Secure together with tape.
3. Slide the prism into your tube so that one end is even with the tube edge.
4. Use your tube as a template to trace 2 circles on the plastic. Cut out your circles—cut one to the outside of the lines so it is slightly larger and one to the inside of the lines so it is slightly smaller.
5. Slide the smaller circle into your tube so it rests against the prism.
6. Put beads, sequins, or confetti into the tube on top of the plastic.
7. Place your second plastic circle on the end of the tube. Secure with tape.
8. Decorate your kaleidoscope and enjoy!

Welcome to Oebaki

Oebaki (pronounced Oe-ba-key) is a small village in West Timor, Indonesia. It is considered one of the poorest communities in the country. The prefix “Oe” means water, but drought has stolen this town’s identity. Poverty abounds, and families struggle to feed their children.

Imagine having a garden, but not being able to feed your family.

Imagine digging into the sand of a dry river bed in search of drinking water.

Imagine your child whose been diagnosed with stunted growth, a preventable early childhood condition with lifelong consequences.

Now imagine the world the way God intends.

God imagines a world where all are fed, everyone has access to clean water, and all children grow up healthy. The author of Ephesians writes, “Now to God be the glory, who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine...” (Ephesians 3:20).

Your gifts to One Great Hour of sharing help make this world look more like the world God imagines. In Oebaki, your gifts help support well-trained savings and loan groups that allow families to buy resilient vegetable seeds for farming, yarn for weaving stunningly beautiful traditional fabric, and egg-laying chickens for a sustainable source of protein essential to preventing child stunting. These enterprises produce excess goods that families sell to generate income.

Today in Oebaki, those who once struggled during the dry season and drought can now maintain a diversified diet by eating stored root vegetables from the last harvest, supplemented with greens purchased at the market.

Nelci Tlonaen works hard in Oebaki with her husband and three children—two in elementary school and one entering high school. Despite the current drought, she feels confident that her family will persevere. “Even now, I can afford clothes and food for my children. I don’t have any difficulty paying for their school.”



Photo: Shanley Studio

“*That’s what happens when we imagine the world as God intends. Through your gifts, a new reality exists for families in Oebaki and around the world.”*

Info Park

Imagine a 12-year-old child that you know. Maybe this is a neighborhood child, one of your own children or perhaps a grandchild. In your mind, what does the child do on a normal day? Go to school? Eat breakfast with friends? Argue with a sibling about what game to play after school?

Today I would like to tell you about another 12-year-old child. Her life is a little different from most children you know. We're going to call her Z, which is the first letter of her name. For Z, a German language course in Serbia felt like the most normal thing she could imagine. She was born in Iran, but her family came from Afghanistan. They were refugees. And, like millions of other refugee and immigrant families, Z's family began the long journey towards a better life. They went through Serbia, and eventually made it to Germany.

In Germany, aid workers spotted Z and her family. They were walking through a park, looking out of place and afraid. The aid workers offered them hope in the form of a safe space to rest and warm noodles, which Z described as "the sweetest food she had tasted in years."

"O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in God," the Psalmist sings (Psalm 34:8).

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing help the aid organization, Info Park, assist refugees with a safe place to rest, educational opportunities, and nourishing food to eat when they are hungry.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing help children like Z, inch closer and closer to the goals they only dream about as they navigate borders, checkpoints, and an exilic life.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing assist learning centers where girls and boys can escape the life of refugee camps and experience the normalcy children in many parts of the world take for granted.

Because of your generosity, Z is on a path towards education that only she and her mother dreamt of for her. Z won the Hamburg regional competition for best writing skills among newcomers in Germany. Two years earlier she didn't know a word of the language. She had only begun attending a German school in Hamburg a month before the award, and yet she walked away with the prize.

Thank you for making it possible for families like Z's to "taste and see that the Lord is good." Your gifts provide more than we can imagine!



Photo: CWS

"Since July 2016, nearly 170 women and girls have attended German classes at Info Park. Of those, 140 successfully graduated and received a language certificate. Teachers from Germany, Austria and Switzerland inspire students to gain confidence, knowing that if they work hard they will have more opportunities."

Top 10 Giving Based on Total Dollars

Rock Spring Congregational UCC
Arlington, VA
(Central Atlantic Conference)

**First Church of Christ
Congregational**
Glastonbury, CT
(Connecticut Conference)

First Congregational UCC
Crystal Lake, IL
(Illinois Conference)

Saint Peter's UCC
Carmel, IN
(Indiana-Kentucky Conference)

Plymouth Congregational UCC
Des Moines, IA
(Iowa Conference)

Plymouth UCC
Grand Rapids, MI
(Michigan Conference)

**First United Church of Arvada
UCC**

Arvada, CO
(Rocky Mountain Conference)
The Good Shepherd UCC
Sahuarita, AZ
(Southwest Conference)

First Congregational UCC
Baraboo, WI
(Wisconsin Conference)

First Congregational UCC
Eau Claire, WI
(Wisconsin Conference)

Top 100 Based on Per Capita Giving

California, Nevada Northern

First Congregational UCC
Berkeley, CA

Danville Congregational Church
Danville, CA

Mira Vista UCC
El Cerrito, CA

Community Church UCC
Kenwood, CA

Foothills Congregational UCC
Los Altos, CA

Skyland Community UCC
Los Gatos, CA

United Church of Christ
Petaluma, CA

Ladera Community Church
Portola Valley, CA

California, Nevada Southern

Irvine United Congregational Church
Irvine, CA

First Congregational UCC
Long Beach, CA

Redlands UCC

Redlands, CA

Mission Hills UCC

San Diego, CA

University City United Church UCC

San Diego, CA

Central Atlantic

New Ark Church UCC

Newark, DE

Greenbelt Community Church, UCC
Greenbelt, MD

**First Congregational Church
of River Edge UCC**

River Edge, NJ

Little River UCC

Annandale, VA

Rock Spring Congregational UCC

Arlington, VA

Sojourners UCC

Charlottesville, VA

Emmaus UCC

Vienna, VA

Central Pacific

First Congregational UCC
Ashland, OR

Cedar Hills UCC
Portland, OR

UCC Congregational of the Dalles
The Dalles, OR

Connecticut

Groton Congregational Church UCC
Groton, CT

Union Memorial UCC
Stamford, CT

First Church in Windsor, UCC
Windsor, CT

Florida

Church on the Hill
Boca Raton, FL

Cocoa Beach Community Church UCC
Cocoa Beach, FL

Fort Myers Congregational UCC
Fort Myers, FL

Congregational UCC

Punta Gorda, FL

Hawaii

Koloa Union United Church of Christ
Koloa, HI

Illinois

Congregational UCC
Arlington Heights, IL

St Peter Community Church UCC
Northfield, IL

Indiana-Kentucky

Saint Peter's UCC
Carmel, IN

First Congregational UCC
Indianapolis, IN

Saint John's UCC
Vincennes, IN

Iowa

United Church of Christ Congregational
Grinnell, IA

Congregational UCC

Iowa City, IA

Kansas-Oklahoma**First Congregational UCC**

Manhattan, KS

Colonial UCC

Prairie Village, MO

Maine**Second Congregational UCC**

Newcastle, ME

Massachusetts

Park Avenue Congregational UCC

Arlington, MA

The Second Church in Newton UCC

Newton, MA

First Congregational UCC

Norwood, MA

Pilgrim UCC

Sherborn, MA

Michigan**First Congregational UCC**

Alpena, MI

Church of the Good Shepherd UCC

Ann Arbor, MI

Congregational UCC

Clare, MI

Plymouth UCC

Grand Rapids, MI

Minnesota**First Congregational UCC**

Mankato, MN

Lynnhurst Congregational

Minneapolis, MN

First Congregational

Moorhead, MN

First United Church of Christ

Northfield, MN

Union Congregational UCC

Saint Louis Park, MN

Macalester Plymouth United Church UCC

Saint Paul, MN

Missouri Mid-South**Ivy Chapel UCC**

Chesterfield, MO

New Hampshire**Church of Cst At Dartmouth UCC**

Hanover, NH

South Congregational UCC

Newport, NH

New York**Mountain United Church of Christ**

Fairport, NY

Presbyterian/New England Congregational

Saratoga Springs, NY

Ohio**Saint John UCC**

Bellevue, KY

David's UCC

Kettering, OH

The First Church in Oberlin UCC

Oberlin, OH

United Church of Christ

Richfield, OH

Pacific Northwest**Eagle Harbor Congregational**

Bainbridge Island, WA

Shalom UCC, Richland

Richland, WA

Spirit of Peace UCC

Sammamish, WA

Magnolia UCC

Seattle, WA

United Church in University Place

University Place, WA

Northshore UCC

Woodinville, WA

Penn Central**Saint John's UCC**

Boalsburg, PA

Trinity UCC

East Petersburg, PA

Emmanuel UCC

Hanover, PA

United Church of Christ

Hummelstown, PA

Hamilton Park UCC

Lancaster, PA

Saint Paul's UCC

New Oxford, PA

Pennsylvania Southeast**Trinity Christian UCC**

Skeppack, PA

Heidelberg UCC

Schwenksville, PA

United Church of Christ at Valley Forge

Wayne, PA

Rocky Mountain**First United Church of Arvada UCC**

Arvada, CO

Park Hill Congregational UCC

Denver, CO

Lakewood United Church of Christ

Lakewood, CO

Southeast**The United Church**

Huntsville, AL

Central Congregational UCC

Atlanta, GA

First United Church UCC

Belvidere, TN

Southeast**Pleasant Hill Community Church UCC**

Pleasant Hill, TN

Southern**Good Shepherd UCC**

Cary, NC

Congregational Church UCC

Tryon, NC

Southwest**The Good Shepherd UCC**

Sahuarita, AZ

Scottsdale Congregational UCC

Scottsdale, AZ

Church of the Palms UCC

Sun City, AZ

Church of the Painted Hills UCC

Tucson, AZ

United Church of Santa Fe UCC

Santa Fe, NM

Vermont**Second Congregational UCC**

Bennington, VT

Community Church UCC

Guilford, VT

Bethany UCC

Randolph, VT

Wisconsin**First Congregational UCC**

Baraboo, WI

First Congregational UCC

Eau Claire, WI

First Congregational UCC

Oconomowoc, WI

Congregational UCC

Whitewater, WI

OGHS Sharing Calendar—*More than we can imagine!*

God has blessed us in so many ways. This calendar is designed to help us acknowledge our blessings but to also think about and pray for others. Each day highlights various situations and suggests a donation of coins or bills. Your household can decide what unit works best for you. It is easiest if you select one unit and use it throughout the days on the calendar. The sharing calendar works well with the OGHS coin box. To order additional coin boxes, call: 1-800-325-7061. Your gift will be a blessing beyond what you can think or imagine!

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LOVE OF CHILDREN	<p>Children remain the poorest age group in America. Progress has been made, but too many children are still hungry</p> <p>Give two units for each child in your family.</p>	<p>Good nutrition is a critical part of ensuring that all human beings can use their bodies and minds to live an active life and reach their full potential</p> <p>Give one unit for each meal you've eaten today.</p>	<p>Substantial global progress has been made in reducing child deaths since 1990. The total number of under-5 deaths worldwide has dropped by 58%</p> <p>Give two units in thanksgiving for the progress being made.</p>	<p>Can you really imagine Jesus saying, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these"</p> <p>Jesus cares for children and so should we. Please give a generous donation today!</p>	<p>Children represent the future, and ensuring their healthy growth and development ought to be a prime concern of all societies</p> <p>Give three units in honor of the children in your congregation.</p>	<p>Malnourished children have a higher risk of death from common childhood illness such as diarrhea, pneumonia, and malaria</p> <p>Give one unit for each child under 5 in your extended family.</p>	<p>In the first 1,000 days, babies' brains form new connections at an astounding rate. With every nutritious meal, hug and kiss, you help build a baby's brain</p> <p>Share one unit for each baby you kissed this week.</p>
LOVE OF CREATION	<p>Over one billion people do not have access to safe water and 2.4 billion have no access to decent sanitation</p> <p>Please give one unit, and commit to recycling and/or limiting use of plastic bottles.</p>	<p>Cars are harmful to the environment. Taking public transportation, walking, or riding a bike are good options that help the environment</p> <p>Give one unit for each time you rode in a car today.</p>	<p>Plastic pollution is one of the biggest threats to worldwide ocean health. Skyrocketing plastic production and limited recycling are factors</p> <p>Give three units today.</p>	<p>Through wisdom, God founded the earth; by understanding God established the heavens</p> <p>Give one unit for every bottle you threw away today that still had water trapped inside of it.</p>	<p>Approximately 3 billion people lack access to clean-cooking solutions and are exposed to dangerous levels of air pollution</p> <p>Give two units for every home-cooked meal you enjoyed today.</p>	<p>The proportion of people using drinking water from improved sources has been steadily improving</p> <p>Give one unit for each faucet in your home.</p>	<p>Many poor villages still lack reliable electricity. The U.S. uses 22% of all electricity consumed in the world</p> <p>Give one unit for each electrical appliance in your home.</p>
LOVE OF NEIGHBOR	<p>Immigration is an international hunger and poverty issue. Many undocumented immigrants are fleeing hunger, extreme poverty, and violence</p> <p>Give two units to support lawful pathways to citizenship in the US.</p>	<p>About 40% of the world's population, mostly people in the poorest countries, risk contracting Malaria, which causes 300 million illness and 1 million deaths annually</p> <p>Give one unit for every doctor you have.</p>	<p>\$10 can provide a thermal blanket for a refugee, or 1 mat to prevent them from sleeping on the cold ground</p> <p>Give two units for every thermal blanket in your home.</p>	<p>Feel God's presence and joy through helping others for God loves a cheerful giver</p> <p>Give the number of units you think would be pleasing to God.</p>	<p>The proportion of people living in extreme poverty is half of what it was in 1990. Yet 1.4 billion people still live on less than \$1.25 per day</p> <p>Share a unit for each meal you have eaten in a restaurant in the past week.</p>	<p>Worldwide, over 100 million elementary school-aged children do not attend school</p> <p>Give one unit for each year of formal education you have received.</p>	<p>The U.S. has significantly reduced the number of refugees it is admitting into our country</p> <p>Give one unit for each person you know who came from another country. If you know more than 5 people from another country give 3 units.</p>
MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE	<p>"We cannot rest until every child who lives in: poverty, a refugee camp, an isolated village, a fragile setting, or who has a disability has a chance to go to school"</p> <p>Alice Albright</p> <p>Give two units today in thanks for your education.</p>	<p>Floods are the most widespread natural disaster aside from wildfires. 90% of all U.S. natural disasters declared involved flooding</p> <p>Give two units if you live in a comfortable home that has never flooded.</p>	<p>Providing an education to girls and young women is one of the strongest ways to end cyclical poverty</p> <p>Give one unit in thanksgiving as you name each girl and woman important in your life.</p>	<p>God provides more than we can ask or imagine. Ephesians 3:20</p> <p>Share two units in thanksgiving for the ways God has blessed you beyond your expectations.</p>	<p>In 2018, wildfires burned 8.6 million acres in the United States. Many of the homes that were impacted were completely destroyed.</p> <p>Give 1 unit for every smoke detector in your home.</p>	<p>For every \$1 invested in water and sanitation, an average of \$4 is returned in increased productivity</p> <p>Give one unit for each time you washed your hands today.</p>	<p>Support disaster survivors. Become a UCC Disaster Recovery Volunteer. Help communities rebuild, visit ucc.org/disaster for info</p> <p>Share one unit if you have ever volunteered at a disaster site or two units if you have not.</p>

Sources: Church World Service, Bread for the World, Children's Defense Fund, UNICEF (United Nation's Children's Fund), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Oceanic Society, World Food Programme, World Health Organization, American Red Cross, the New York Times and the U.S. Census Bureau.

Order Additional OGHS Materials at 800-325-7061

Finding OGHS Resources

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING RESOURCES IN YOUR SHIPMENT

One of each unless indicated otherwise

- Poster (1)
- Bulletin Inserts (bulk)
- Cube Coin Offering Box
- Offering Envelopes (bulk)

OGHS MATERIALS AVAILABLE AT UCC RESOURCES

- Planning and Resource Guide
- Bulletin Inserts (no charge)
- Offering Envelopes (no charge)
- Cube Coin Offering Boxes (additional—\$0.10/each)

OGHS ON THE WEB

[UCC.ORG/OGHS_RESOURCES](http://ucc.org/oghs_resources)

Complete OGHS Resources including:

- Planning and Resource Guide
- Worship Resources and Children's Sermons
- Children and Youth Activities
- Downloadable Art, Graphics, Songs and Videos
- Sharing Calendar
- Skits and Stories

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